

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:

determining by a discovery machine whether a first user associated with a first client machine will accept a communication initiated by a second user associated with a second client machine, wherein said first and second users are registered with said discovery machine;

if said first user will accept said communication, establishing a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine to deliver said communication wherein if established said direct link is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine and wherein no direct link is established if said first user will not accept said communication.

2. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said direct link is closed after said communication is delivered.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a new direct link is established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

5. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.
6. **(cancelled).**
7. **(cancelled).**
8. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.
9. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.
10. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.
11. **(cancelled).**
12. **(previously presented)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining that said first user will accept said communication includes storing notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said discovery machine is a central server.

Claim 14-32 (cancelled).

33. (currently amended) An article of manufacture including ~~but not limited to a signal bearing~~ a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a discovery machine, cause the discovery machine to perform a method comprising:

determining whether a first user associated with a first client machine will accept a communication initiated by a second user associated with a second client machine, the first and second users being registered with said discovery machine;
and

if said first user will accept said communication, establishing a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine in order to deliver said communication wherein if established, said direct link is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine and wherein no direct link is established if said first user will not accept said communication.

34. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 33, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

35. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 33, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, the instructions are executable to cause the discovery machine to further perform storing said communication in said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

36. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable to cause the discovery machine to further perform establishing a new direct link between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

37. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 36, wherein the instructions are executable to cause the discovery machine to further prefix a thread of related previous communications to said new communication.

38. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of said first client machine and said second client machine maintains a plurality of contact information.

39. (cancelled).

40. (cancelled).

41. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable to cause the discovery machine to further allow a third user to initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

42. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture ~~including but not limited to a signal bearing medium~~ as recited in claim 41, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (previously presented) One or more servers comprising a discovery machine configured to:

determine whether a first user associated with a first client machine will accept a communication initiated by a second user associated with a second client machine, said first and second users being registered with said discovery machine;
and

if said first user will accept said communication, establish a direct link between said first client machine and said second client machine in order to deliver said communication wherein if said direct link is established, said

communication is not delivered through said discovery machine and wherein no direct link is established if said first user will not accept said communication.

45. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to close said direct link after said communication is delivered.

46. (Currently amended) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said discovery machine is further configured to store said communication until said first user becomes available.

47. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to establish a new direct link between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

48. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 47, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to prefix a thread of related previous communications to said new communication.

49. (Cancelled).

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to display a web page interface to allow a third user to initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via the web page interface.

52. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to execute a simple mail transfer protocol to allow a third user to initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user.

53. (Previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein said discovery machine is further configured to allow at least one of said first user and second user to selectively block said new communication.

54. (Cancelled).

55. (previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is further configured to store notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

56. (previously presented) The one or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is configured as a central server.